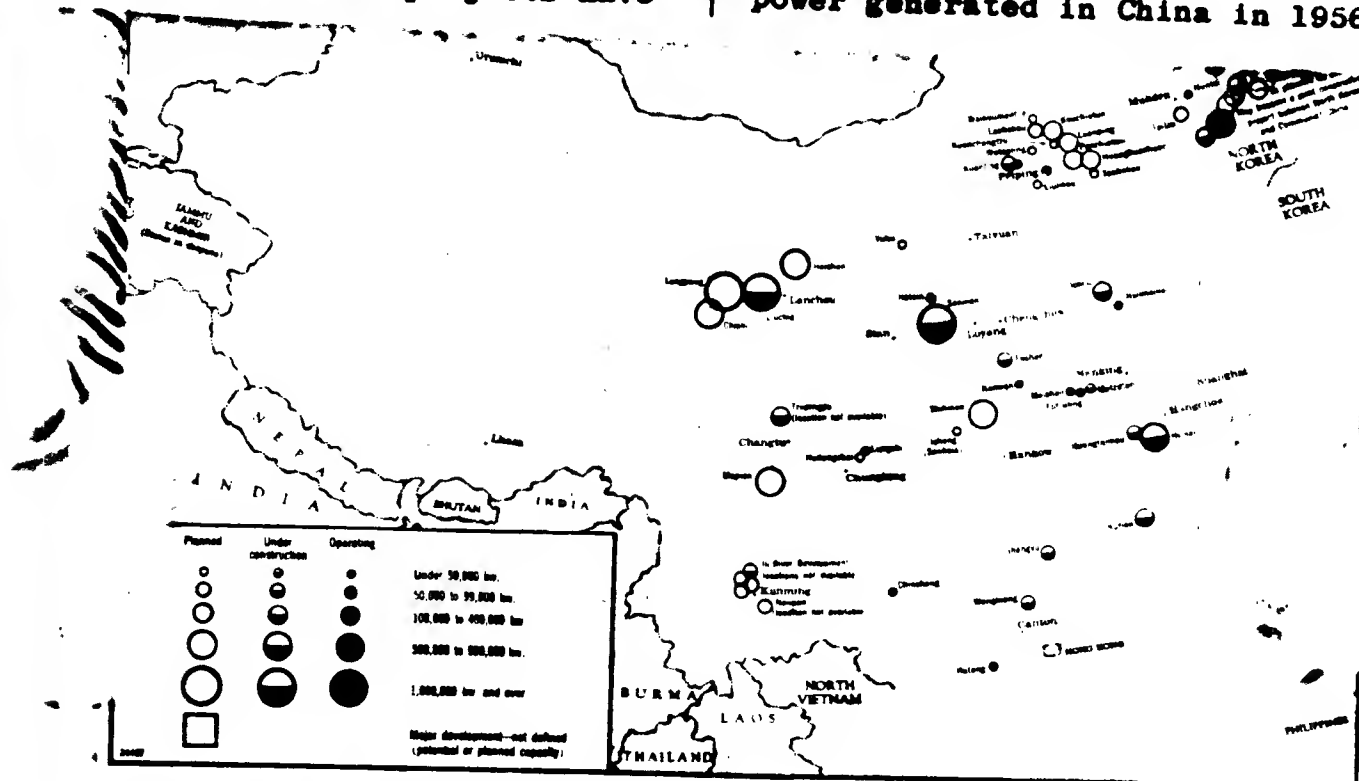


been started. Reports indicate that work on several large projects is under way, however, and more are scheduled to be started during the Second Five-Year Plan (1958-1962). Hydroelectric plants, which produced only 20 percent of the total electric power generated in China in 1956,



Of a total of around 1,700,000 kw. in electric generating capacity installed since 1949, Peiping has announced that 450,000 kw. was in hydroelectric plants and the remainder in thermal plants. Some 350,000 kw. was installed at Fengman, the site of China's largest hydroelectric plant, which was stripped of most of its generating equipment by the USSR just after World War II. Smaller plants have been built at Kuanting (30,000 kw.) and Lungchi (24,000 kw.), and many smaller plants as well as river conservancy projects.

A basin-wide, multipurpose program has been developed for the Yellow River, long termed "China's sorrow." Present plans call for the construction of 46 dams. Peiping has estimated that the total theoretical capacity for the entire program is about 23,000,000 kw., almost seven times the present national thermal and hydroelectric total. The largest installations reported are 1,000,000-kw. plants for the Sanmen, Liuchia and Lungyang Gorges. Blueprints for the Sanmen project recently arrived from the Soviet Union and preliminary work is under way at the site. It will be the first large project on the

for the industrial
basins around Loyang,
An, Taiyuan and
Chengchow.

Joint Sino-Soviet surveys of the Amur and Ussuri Rivers, which form part of the border between Manchuria and Siberia, have been made, and a program for their joint development is being drawn up in the USSR. A total of 5-6,000,000 kw. is foreseen to serve industries on both sides of the border.

China's largest river, the Yangtze, which rises in a wild and remote section of the Tibetan plateau, is potentially the nation's most important source of hydroelectric power. Major development of the river lies well in the future, however, and overall planning for the river's development has not yet begun.

Some work has been done on tributaries of the Yangtze in Szechwan. Two plants are scheduled to be started farther downstream during the Second Five-Year Plan, a 560,000-kw. plant on the Han River and a 90,000-kw. one on the Kan. They will eventually provide power for industry in the Wuhan area. Work has begun on a 560,000-kw. plant on the Hsinnan River in East China. A service railroad to the dam site is being built and is expected to be finished by September. This plant will supply power to industries in the Shanghai-Nanking-Hanchow area.



Site of hydroelectric station on the Hsinnan River in Chekiang Province.
—from China Pictorial, November 1954

The rapid industrialization of China led to acute, although localized, shortages of electric power last year, and Peiping has said that investment is to be concentrated this year in "lagging" industries, such as electric power. During 1957 and in the years following, capital available for investment in the electric power industry will be limited and the cheaper operating costs of hydroelectric plants must be weighed against less costly thermal plants, which can be put into operation more quickly. Peiping has charted a course of investment in hydroelectric projects, which as they begin to produce, will be of great assistance in creating new industrial centers throughout China and in making possible for the first time series of interconnected power systems. (SECRET) Prepare